



St Benedict's Primary School

ST BENEDICTS ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM
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 Headteacher: Mrs Armine Williams



15th April 2020

Dear Parents,

We continue to hope that you are all safe and well – please don't forget to let us know how you are all doing. Your teachers are desperate to know – outofschool@stbendic.bham.sch.uk is the way to contact us. Phone lines are not available at this time, but this email is monitored at all times. A reminder that work is available on our website – go to the 'Parents' Information' tab – in this section you will find 'School Closure – Online Work'. This continues to be updated regularly as staff find more resources for you. Don't forget our mantra – read, read and read more. There are links to free books in the online work section. Your child would also find it invaluable to know their Times Tables by the time they return and now is the ideal time to practice. As I said before, please DON'T worry about your child falling behind – all children in the country are in the same position.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – there has been a lot of confusion over this as the Government are not making themselves clear. **VOUCHERS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN REGISTERED AS PUPIL PREMIUM.** The Government currently provide a meal for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two, but this does not mean your child is entitled to vouchers. To qualify, you need to be receiving certain benefits and to have undertaken an application process through the school office and been accepted by the Local Authority. We have sent out all the codes we have so if you have not received them, you are not entitled to them. I do have a list of 7 children who we have been notified have become eligible for them in the last few weeks and I will get those to you as soon as the school receives them.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING VOUCHERS:

Birmingham City Council supplied two weeks' worth of vouchers for families to use over the holidays – these have now been sent out so **there are no vouchers being sent this week.** From Monday, we have to switch to the National Voucher scheme run by the Government, who are also supplying vouchers worth £15 per week. This is taking a lot longer to organize as every school in the country has been trying to access the system at the same time. We have had your vouchers on order for the last two weeks and we are still waiting for them. We will continue to chase for them until we receive them. However, these are sent by email, from the Government, directly to parents – **IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN US AN EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE DO SO NOW.** Use the dedicated email address – fsm-vouchers@stbendic.bham.sch.uk. If you have not given us an email, there will be a considerable delay in getting the vouchers to you by post.

We hope to see you all again very soon – stay safe and know we are thinking about you all,

Mrs Williams



